

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

POLICY 92-001

(Adopted July 22, 1992)
(Amended December 2, 1992)
(Amended November 20, 1996)
(Amended June 20, 2012)

ISSUANCE OF PRESS RELEASES ON FINAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The Board of Registration in Medicine's mission is to serve the public by ensuring that only qualified physicians are licensed to practice medicine and to support an environment which maximizes the high quality of health care in the Commonwealth. The Board considers a critical part of this mission to be the responsibility of informing the public when it takes disciplinary action against a physician. At the same time, the Board is cognizant of the need to not unnecessarily harm a physician's reputation. In seeking a balance, the Board has adopted the following policy of informing the press about its disciplinary actions:

- The Board will issue a press release when it imposes final disciplinary actions.
- A resignation is a final disciplinary action and will be included in press notifications.
- The Board will issue a press release when there is a summary suspension only at the time of the initial Board vote.
- The Board will not issue a press release on an Assurance of Discontinuance
- Press releases will be in a simple format that will state any findings and sanction, and provide some information about the practitioner's practice location (city or town) and specialty. The press release will not diverge significantly from the language found in the Board's final decision.
- The Executive Director, or designee, will review all press releases prior to release
- The Board may waive the issuance of a press release in extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Board